



L. Nelson 3729
#2/Pre Addl
6-25-02

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mark T. Girard

Serial No.: 10/073,620

Filed: February 11, 2002

For: PROCESSING ASSEMBLY
AND METHOD

Docket No. AKI003/US/2

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I CERTIFY THAT ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2002, THIS PAPER IS
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Barbara A Avery
BARBARA A. AVERY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following preliminary amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 10 to read as follows:

A1
Additional detail concerning the apparatus 10 and its methods of operation can be found in U.S. Patent Application Number 09/250,823 filed February 17, 1999, the specification of which is incorporated herein in its entirety.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 33, line 1 to read as follows:

A2
Inwardly adjacent to the grooves 144-48 is a shoulder of shelf 154. Shelf 154 provides a sealing surface for the O-ring 114 when the tray 102 is inverted. Lying inwardly of the shelf 154 is the repository 156 wherein the suspensions or other appropriate component part resides. During shipping, adjacent stacked plates will cooperate to retain the suspensions in place in the repository 156 while in operation during assembly the tray 102 will cooperate with the vacuum chamber